

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR AREA SOURCES IN FOUR INDUSTRY SECTORS: POLYVINYL CHLORIDE AND COPOLYMER PRODUCTION, PRIMARY COPPER SMELTING, SECONDARY COPPER SMELTING, AND PRIMARY NONFERROUS METALS-ZINC, CADMIUM, AND BERYLLIUM

ACTION

- On September 27, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed air toxics standards for smaller emitting sources, called area sources, in four industry sectors. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- Area sources are those that have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or less than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants. If sources emit more than these amounts, they are called ‘major’ sources.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- Each of the source categories included in today’s proposed rules are included on the area source category list.
- The proposed standards apply to area sources in the following industries: polyvinyl chloride and copolymer production, primary copper smelting, secondary copper smelting, and primary nonferrous metals-zinc, cadmium, and beryllium.
- Existing area sources that would be affected by the rules are already well controlled as a result of current State or Federal regulations. The proposed rules would not change the level of emissions control provided by the current standards.
- The proposed rules will have little cost impact on existing area sources. EPA estimates that compliance costs for affected plants will average less than \$1,000.

PROPOSED STANDARDS

Primary Copper and Primary Zinc Plants

- The proposed rules for existing primary copper smelters and primary zinc plants would require new startup, shutdown and malfunction requirements. The sources are already required to control particulate matter, which also provide effective control air toxics emissions. Because of this, EPA counts reductions achieved by these existing requirements toward the area source rule. Monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements would also be the same as required by the existing regulations.
- The proposal also would oblige any new sources to meet requirements comparable to the existing sources, although none are expected in the next 3 years.

Polyvinyl Chloride/Copolymer and Beryllium Plants

- All polyvinyl chloride/copolymer plants and primary beryllium plants that are area sources would be required to continue to be in compliance with existing Federal air toxics rules.

Secondary Copper Smelters

- EPA did not propose rules for existing secondary copper smelters because there are none in the U.S. as defined in the proposed standards. Today's proposed air toxics standards set emissions limits, work practice standards, and compliance provisions for any new secondary copper smelter that may be constructed in the future.
- EPA will accept comments on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these "urban" air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- Each of the source categories included in today's proposed rules are included on the area source category list.

- Primary copper smelting is the industry which refines copper concentrate from mined ore to anode grade copper, using pyrometallic processes.
- Secondary copper smelters process copper scrap in a blast furnace and converter or use another pyrometallurgical purification process to produce anode copper from copper scrap, including low grade copper scrap. The distinguishing features of secondary copper smelters are the type of pyrometallurgical process used and the final product, which is anode copper.
- The Primary Nonferrous Metals – Zinc, Cadmium, and Beryllium source category includes establishments primarily engaged in smelting and refining the nonferrous metals; zinc, cadmium and beryllium.
- The Polyvinyl Chloride and Copolymers Production source category includes establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing synthetic resins, plastics materials, and nonvulcanized elastomers.
- The air toxics emitted from area sources in these industrial source categories include vinyl chloride (from polyvinyl chloride and copolymers production) and toxic metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, manganese, and/or nickel, depending on the type of plant. Secondary copper smelters also emit dioxin. Exposure to these compounds may cause cancer, central nervous system effects, kidney damage, and acute health disorders such as respiratory and skin irritation.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- The proposed air toxics rules are being developed in response to the requirements in section 112(k) of the Clean Air Act and are being issued at this time in response to a court order that directs EPA to issue final rules for area sources every 6 months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the proposed rules, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>.
- Today's proposed action and other background information are also available either electronically in www.regulations.gov, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hard copy at EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (Docket

ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0510). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.

- NOTE: The EPA Docket Center suffered damage due to flooding during the last week of June 2006. The Docket Center is continuing to operate. However, during the cleanup, there will be temporary changes to Docket Center telephone numbers, addresses, and hours of operation for people who wish to make hand deliveries or visit the Public Reading Room to view documents. Consult EPA's Federal Register notice at 71 FR 38147 (July 5, 2006) or the EPA website at www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm for current information on docket operations, locations and telephone numbers. The Docket Center's mailing address for U.S. mail and the procedure for submitting comments to www.regulations.gov are not affected by the flooding and will remain the same.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments will be accepted for 45 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register.
- All comments should be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - [Federal e-rulemaking portal](http://www.regulations.gov); www.regulations.gov;
 - [E-mail](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov) (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov);
 - Mail (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460); or Hand delivery (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For further information about the proposed rules, contact Mr. Bob Schell of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-4116 or Schell.Bob@epa.gov.